AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

    a)   providing text input;

    b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation
5 definitions that identify the beginning or end of a phrase;

    c)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text input;

    d)   determining, using said key words and punctuation definitions, whether said ~~first~~ plurality of words includes
10 a phrase;

    e)   repeating steps c-d <u>for a next plurality of words</u> until all the text input has been analyzed; and

    f)   formatting said text input by ~~controlling~~ <u>adjusting</u> the space size of every between word space
15 according to said determined phrases.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a speech recognition device.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a client computer.

4.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a computer keyboard.

5.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a touch pad.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from an on-screen touch pad.

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7.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said library further includes templates and rules and said determining step is performed by an expert system.

8.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the space sizes are adjusted differently according to the determined phrases.

9.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input has certain aesthetic characteristics selected from at least one of justification, margins and lines per page, said text input being formatted according
5 to the determined phrases while maintaining said certain aesthetic characteristics.

10.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining step is performed by a neural network.

11.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:
    a)   providing text input having a plurality of lines;
    b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation
5 definitions that identify the beginning or end of a phrase;
    c)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text input;
    d)   determining, using said key words and punctuation definitions, whether said ~~first~~ plurality of words includes
10 a phrase;
    e)   repeating steps c-d <u>for a next plurality of words</u> until all the text input has been analyzed and phrases determined for a plurality of said lines; and

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f)   formatting said text input by ~~controlling~~
15 adjusting the space size between words within each line
according to the phrases determined over the plurality of
lines.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein
the plurality of lines form a paragraph.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>11</u> ~~1~~ wherein
said text input has certain aesthetic characteristics
selected from at least one of justification, margins and
lines per page, said text input being formatted according
5 to the determined phrases while maintaining said certain
aesthetic characteristics.

14.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for
formatting text, comprising the steps of:
        a)   providing text input;
        b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation
5 definitions that identify the beginning or end of a phrase;
        c)   using said key words and punctuation definitions
to   determine   characteristics   that   predict   boundary
punctuation;
        d)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text
10 input;
        e)   using said ~~key words and said~~ determined
characteristics to predict phrase boundaries within said
~~first~~ plurality of words;
        f)   repeating steps d-e <u>for a next plurality of words</u>
15 until all the text input has been analyzed; and
        g)   formatting said text input according to the
predicted phrase boundaries.

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15.   (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said formatting step further comprises adjusting the size of spaces between words differently according to said determined phrases.

16.   (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said text input has certain aesthetic characteristics selected from at least one of justification, margins and lines per page, said text input being formatted according to the determined phrases while maintaining said certain aesthetic characteristics.

17.   (currently amended) The method of claim 14 1 wherein said formatting step further comprises selecting a font.

18.   (currently amended) The method of claim 14 1 wherein said formatting step further comprises selecting a font size.

19.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

    a)   providing text input;

    b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation definitions;

    c)   examining a first plurality of words of said text input;

    d)   identifying each word of said plurality as one of the key words in the library or a non-key word;

    e)   extracting a pattern from said plurality of the key and non-key words;

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f) using said pattern to determine whether said first plurality of words includes a phrase boundary;

g) repeating steps c-f <u>for a next plurality of words</u>

15 until all the text input has been analyzed; and

h) formatting said text input according to said determined phrase boundaries, ~~whereby the text input is formatted to enhance readability~~.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

Assigning a value ~~from a predetermined set of values~~ to <u>said</u> phrase boundaries; and

5 Formatting said text input according to said assigned values.

21. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

Providing formatted text output to a printer.

22. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

Providing formatted text output to a computer display device.

23. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

Providing formatted text output to a speech synthesizer.

24. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

Providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a video broadcast as closed-caption subtitles.

25. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

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Providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a Web page.

26.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a printed book.

27.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated into a magazine.

28.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated into direct marketing literature.

29.   (currently amended) A system for formatting text for enhanced readability, comprising:
a parser for parsing text input and recognizing words and punctuation;

5   a library for storing key words and punctuation definitions;
a readability engine for determining phrases in said text input using said key words and punctuation definitions and assigning values to every between word space in said

10   text input, said assigned value being the likelihood that the word is the beginning or end of a phrase; and
a formatter for formatting said text input by ~~by controlling~~ adjusting the space size of every between word space on each line according to said assigned values.

30.   (previously presented) A system for formatting text for enhanced readability, comprising:

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a library for storing key words and punctuation definitions;

5   a parser for parsing text input into sections containing within-sentence boundaries, said sections being represented as input patterns of key and non-key words;

a neural net readability engine trained on sections of training text less punctuation that cross sentence

10   boundaries and represented as test patterns of key and non-key words to predict boundary punctuation at the end of sentences, said neural net processing the input patterns to assign a value to a predicted phrase boundary within sentences; and

15   a formatter for formatting said text input according to the assigned values of the phrases.

31.   (previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the neural network readability engine comprises a Clauseau readability engine.

32.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text comprising the steps of:

a)   providing text input having certain aesthetic characteristics selected from at least one of

5   justification, margins and lines per page;

b)   providing a library of ~~text data~~ key words and punctuation definitions that identify the beginning or end of a phrase;

c)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text

10   input;

d)   determining, using said key words and punctuation definitions ~~text data~~, whether said ~~first~~ plurality of words includes a phrase;

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e)   repeating steps c-d <u>for a next plurality of words</u>
15   until all the text input has been analyzed; and

f)   formatting said text input to shorten spaces between words according to said determined phrases to reduce the length of the text input while maintaining the certain aesthetic characteristics.

33.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text comprising the steps of:

a)   providing text input having certain aesthetic characteristics   selected   from   at   least   one   of
5   justification, margins and lines per page;

b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation definitions that identify the beginning or end of a phrase;

c)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text input;

10   d)   determining, using said <u>key words and punctuations definitions</u> ~~text data~~, whether said ~~first~~ plurality of words includes a phrase;

e)   repeating steps c-d <u>for a next plurality of words</u> until all the text input has been analyzed; and

15   f)   formatting said text input according to said determined phrases to improve readability while maintaining said certain aesthetic characteristics.

34.   (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the text is formatted by varying the space size between words by different amounts according to said determined phrases.

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35. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said certain aesthetic characteristics includes lines per paragraph.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 ~~1~~, wherein the text input is formatted to reduce the variation in print density from one line to the next.

30. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, wherein a similar spacing pattern between words from line-to-line creates rivers, comprising the steps of:

5   a)   providing text input;

b)   providing a library of function words and punctuation definitions;

c)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text input;

10   d)   determining, using said function words and punctuation definitions, whether said ~~first~~ plurality of words includes a phrase;

e)   repeating steps c-d <u>for a next plurality of words</u> until all the text input has been analyzed;

15   f)   formatting said text input according to said determined phrases ~~whereby the text input is formatted to enhance readability~~;

g)   detecting rivers in the formatted text input; and

h)   manipulating the formatted text until the white

20 space is varied sufficiently from line-to-line to eliminate the rivers.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the rivers are detected by either identifying vertical

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spaces that continue for more than two lines or analyzing
the formatted text for spaces of a predetermined size
5   aligned with spaces of the same predetermined size or
larger.

39. (previously presented)   The method of claim 37,
wherein the text is manipulated by first attempting to
realign the second line in the detected river, and, if not
possible or not successful in eliminating the river,
5   attempting to realign the first line and then the third
line of the detected river.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein
said text input is formatted by varying the physical
features of letters within the text input.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein
the library of function words and punctuation definitions
is provided by the neural network.

42. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for
formatting text, comprising the steps of:
         a)   providing text input;
         b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation
5   definitions;
         c)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of the said
text input;
         d)   assigning, using said key words and punctuation
definitions, values to the spaces between words in said
10   plurality, said assigned value being the likelihood that
the word is the beginning or end of a phrase;

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e)   repeating steps c-d for a next plurality of words
until all the text input has been analyzed and values
assigned to all of the spaces between the words; and

15   f)   formatting said text input according to the
assigned values to enhance readability.

43.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for
formatting text, comprising the steps of:

     a)   providing text input;

     b)   installing an input vocabulary of key words and
5 punctuation definitions that are stored in a library;

     c)   examining a first plurality of words of said text
input using the punctuation definitions indicating a
phrase;

     d)   examining said plurality or of words to look for
10 stored key words indicating a phrase;

     e)   based on the examinations, assigning values to
the spaces between the words in said plurality, said
assigned value being the likelihood that the word is the
beginning or end of a phrase;

15   f)   repeating steps c-e for a next plurality of words
until all the text input has been analyzed and values
assigned to all spaces between the words in the text input;

     g)   formatting said text input by varying the spacing
between words according to the assigned values to enhance
20 readability of the text input.

44.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for
formatting text, comprising the steps of:

     a)   providing text input;

     b)   providing a library of key words and punctuation
5 definitions;

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c)   training a neural network using the library to recognize phrases in text and assign values to spaces between words in the phrases, said assigned value being the likelihood that the word is the beginning or end of a

10 phrase;

d)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text input;

e)   using the neural network to assign values to the spaces between words in said plurality;

15 f)   repeating steps ~~d~~-e <u>for a next plurality of words</u> until all the text input has been analyzed and values assigned to all of the spaces between the words; and

g)   formatting said text input according to the assigned values ~~to enhance readability~~.

45.   (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

a)   providing text input;

b)   examining a ~~first~~ plurality of words of said text

5 input;

c)   assigning values to the spaces between words in said plurality, said assigned value being the likelihood that the word is the beginning or end of a phrase;

d)   repeating steps b-c <u>for a next plurality of words</u>

10 until all the text input has been analyzed and values assigned to all of the spaces between the words; and

e)   formatting said text input by varying the spacing between words according to the assigned values ~~to enhance readability~~.

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